

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

1. (Currently amended) An interior window frame assembly ~~for anchoring an interior window covering thereto, said window frame assembly comprising:~~  
  
an elongate core substrate configured to frame at least a portion of an interior window opening, wherein said ~~elongate core~~ substrate comprises a thickness of less than 5/16 inch; ~~and~~  
  
at least one flange attached to said ~~elongate core~~ substrate, ~~wherein said at least one flange is configured to retain at least a portion of an interior window covering;~~ and a window covering coupled to either said substrate or said at least one flange,  
  
wherein said at least one flange is configured to retain at least a portion of said window covering.
2. (Currently amended) The interior window frame assembly of claim 1, wherein said ~~core~~ substrate comprises at least one material having, ~~by volume,~~ an elastic modulus greater than 2.3E.
3. (Currently amended) The interior window frame assembly of claim 1, wherein said ~~core~~ substrate is formed of material selected from the group consisting of fiberglass, metal, graphite and reinforced plastic.
4. (Currently amended) The interior window frame assembly of claim 1, wherein said flange is configured to retain a hinge attached to said ~~interior~~ window covering.
5. (Currently amended) The interior window frame assembly of claim 1, further comprising a decorative covering coupled to at least one of said ~~core~~ substrate and said at least one flange.
6. (Original) The interior window frame assembly of claim 5, wherein said decorative

covering comprises a material selected from the group consisting of wood, plastic, wood composite, cloth and paint.

7. (Currently amended) The interior window frame assembly of claim 1, wherein said ~~interior~~ window covering comprises a shutter.

8. (Currently amended) An interior window frame assembly ~~for anchoring an interior window covering thereto, said window frame assembly~~ comprising:

an elongate core substrate having a thickness less than 5/16 inch and comprising at least one material having, ~~by volume,~~ an elastic modulus greater than 2.3E;

at least one flange affixed to a portion of said substrate, ~~said flange having a depth sufficient to receive a hinge coupled to an interior window covering;~~ and

a window covering coupled to either said substrate or said at least one flange; and

a decorative covering applied to at least a portion of said ~~core~~ substrate, wherein said decorative covering conceals said portion of said core substrate.

9. (Currently amended) The interior window frame assembly of claim 8, wherein a cross-sectional shape of said ~~elongate core~~ substrate in combination with said at least one flange corresponds to a shape selected from the group consisting of an L, a T and a Z.

10. (Currently amended) The interior window frame assembly of claim 8, wherein said ~~core~~ substrate is formed of material selected from the group consisting of fiberglass, metal, graphite and reinforced plastic.

11. (Original) The interior window frame assembly of claim 8, wherein said decorative covering comprises a material selected from the group consisting of wood, plastic, wood composite, cloth and paint.

12. (Currently amended) The interior window frame assembly of claim 8, wherein said ~~interior~~ window covering comprises a shutter.

13. (Currently amended) An interior window frame system ~~for facilitating installation of an interior window covering, said system~~ comprising:

a window having an associated window jamb and adjacent wall;

a frame substrate mounted to at least one of said window jamb and said adjacent wall, said frame substrate having a thickness of less than 5/16 inch and comprising at least one material having, ~~by volume~~, an elastic modulus greater than 2.3E;

at least one flange coupled to said frame substrate, ~~said at least one flange having a depth sufficient to accommodate a hinge attached to said interior window covering ; and~~

a window covering coupled to either said frame substrate or said at least one flange; and

a decorative covering applied to said frame substrate to substantially conceal at least a portion of said ~~the~~ frame substrate.

14. (Currently amended) The interior window frame system of claim 13, wherein a cross-sectional shape of said frame substrate in combination with said at least one flange corresponds to a shape selected from the group consisting of an L, a T and a Z.

15. (Original) The interior window frame system of claim 13, wherein said frame substrate comprises a material selected from the group consisting of fiberglass, metal, graphite and reinforced plastic.

16. (Original) The interior window frame system of claim 13, wherein said decorative covering comprises a material selected from the group consisting of wood, plastic, wood composite, cloth and paint.

17. (Currently amended) The interior window frame system of claim 13, wherein said

~~interior~~ window covering comprises a shutter.

18. (Currently amended) A method for anchoring an interior window covering adjacent an interior window having a window jamb and an adjacent wall, said method comprising:

providing a frame substrate having, by volume, an elastic modulus greater than wood;

coupling to said frame substrate at least one flange, said at least one flange having a depth sufficient to accommodate a hinge attached to said interior window covering;

mounting said frame substrate to at least one of said ~~[[a]]~~ window jamb and said ~~[[an]]~~ adjacent wall; and

attaching said hinge of said interior window covering to said flange.